

kill
to make sure he
receives all he
is entitled to.

Even myself.

rites of wrong

Eyeing the bra ads
like you're supposed to
you move to
the dark spaces
beyond
mere
fashion.

— Jeff Parsons

Surrey, B.C., Canada

MARY SMOKES: 2

longest I've ever lived in one place
Jack & Kit Webb my original
landlords now both dead
I was living on the Sunshine Coast
tired of the holiday crowds
borrowed a car to look
inland for some secluded spot
it was just luck I stopped at Woodford Motors
(since torn down) to ask if they knew
of any old farmhouses for rent in the area
"we have one" Jack said (he owned Woodford
Motors) "\$36 a month including current"
I was impressed by the way he said "current"
instead of electricity "where is it?"
I asked "Mary Smokes creek" he said
soon as he said MARY SMOKES a book was born
even before I saw the place I knew
I'd have to live there at least
until that book got written
I had never heard such a magic creek name before

20 years later I'm still here
6 books published & 8 one-man exhibitions
if the rent wasn't so cheap (100 a month
now plus power) I never could have done it